Jardin D'Hiver in Scotland.—The Caledonian Horticultural Society propose to construct a winter garden at Inverleith, somewhat on the plan of that in Paris (?). A plan, designed by the superintendents, has been approved of generally by the garden committee. It forms a quadrangular structure, and is so contrived that one side only of the quadrangle may be erected at first, 140 feet in length by 35 in breadth. The heating is to be accomplished by means of hot water.

The New White Paint, of which a temporary mystery was lately made, and the basis of which we anticipated to be either antimony or bismuth (the latter a metal proposed by Regnault to be classed with antimony itself), formed the subject of a paper read by Mr. Forrest, the discoverer, at the Liverpool Polytechnic Society, on Monday, last week, when he announced his intention to make a present of it to the public, intimating, at the same time, that it consisted of white oxide of antimony (argentine flowers, as it used to be called by the old chemists), and that it had many advantages as an excellent body paint, superior to white lead and much cheaper, inasmuch as antimony might be obtained in abundance for about 12*l.* a ton, while lead costs 24*l.* 10*s.* He also pointed out its greater permanency of colour, and its capability of being spread over a much larger surface than an equal weight of white lead. Indeed, it is not only lighter, but may be made more subtle; and it was its superiority in these and other respects that led us to regard it as a likely substitute for lead. It is rather singular, too, that the old chemists called antimony *their* lead, maintaining that, in some of its properties, it bore a near affinity to lead.

Polygonal Decorations. — Greek Vases.—During one of the recent discussions at the Society of Arts, on the construction of Greek vases and the production of beautiful forms, already mentioned by us, Mr. Russell, the secretary, observed,—It is continually alleged as a fault of art in our day, that instead of boldly creating forms and trusting to our own minds, and carrying out those feelings according to what we consider the enlightened principles which we have struck out for ourselves, we are contented to take for granted that the ancients were artists truly unapproachable, and as such we can never hope to equal, much less to excel, and therefore the best thing that we can do is to abandon altogether originality, and give ourselves up to the study and copying of antique forms. He then pointed out the effect of a design upon the mind and senses in the case of Polygonal art, and called attention to the effect of a design standing out from the wall or pavement which, if felt by the hand or foot, is perfectly flat. He next proceeded to point out the forms of the tessera and geometric figures which had hitherto been used in combination to produce design, and pointed out the beauty and variety of design which might be obtained by the combination of a form of tessera, which, although not new, had not up to this time been used as the base of a pattern. The figure which was pointed out as most applicable to mosaic decoration was the triangle of Plato, any number of which might be arranged round a point, and made to cover an entire surface to form bands either horizontally, diagonally, or any variety of diamond figures; as degrees, the sides of the triangle bear a peculiar ratio, namely, 30, 60, and 90—whereas where figures of inharmonious ratios are used the same variety cannot be obtained. Afterwards Dr. Harding made some remarks as to the uses to which the various cups and vases excavated by him had been applied, and gave the following quotation from an ancient Greek play, as illustrating the purpose to which the lecythé had been applied. The play is one in which a young man is represented as jeering an abandoned old woman, and saying—

"But you old wretch, I greatly dread your lover."

"Who?"

"Why that first of Artists."

"Who is that?"

"He who for dead men paints the lecythé."

Another quotation, given as pointing out the use of these vessels, is as follows—

"You left me like a corpse laid out, only uncrowned, and with no lecythés on me."

Projected Works, &c.—Tenders have been called for by advertisement, for the repair and restoration of Ware Church, Herts; various branches of artificers for the ordnance department; the erection of a new church at Bristol; a parsonage house in Durham; six almshouses at Ely; a lock-up house at Hartlepool; iron railing and gates for the parish of Isleworth; the construction of several oval sewers at Bristol; and the supply of 5,700 tons of wrought-iron rails, 2,000 tons of cast-iron chairs, and 51,000 sleepers for the Shropshire Union Railways.

Royal Institute of Architects.—On Monday night last an ordinary meeting was held: Mr. C. Fowler, V.P., was in the chair, and Mr. A. B. Blenkarn was elected an associate. Mr. Fergusson read a very interesting essay on the ancient Buddhist architecture of India, which was illustrated by a large number of drawings. He said the subject was one of extreme complexity, and he must assume that none there knew any thing about it. If they did, they must have had access to information not generally known, for before he visited India he had read every work that was published on the subject, and obtained all the information that could be had, and yet when he got there he found all that he had done was of no use. What Mr. Fergusson put before the meeting was the result of his own observations, and our readers will doubtless be glad to have some of the information in his own words: this we will give them in another number.

Smoky Chimneys.—Sir: From observation and practice I find the cause of smoky chimneys to be the descent of air down the flue, which is often attempted to be cured by placing cowls of different shapes on the tops of the flues, and at other times by placing horizontal pipes under the floors and under the hearthstones to bring in air: this frequently fails, as the weight of air down the flue is too powerful for that introduced by the horizontal pipes. I have always found that to effect a certain cure the draft to the fire must be powerful, and I have cured the most obstinate smoky shimneys by the following method, viz., by introducing an air trunk of zinc, wood, &c., from the top of the chimney-stack down to the side of the fireplace. In new buildings preparation could be made at the commencement, by forming a second and smaller flue by the side of the smoke flue. This would save expense, and prevent the deformity of the house by cowls.—Wm. Rowe.

The Burial Question.—The exposure of the vault or cellar under Enon chapel, Clement's-lane, Strand, in which during sixteen years some 10,000 bodies have been deposited, to spread disease and death throughout the neighbourhood, has considerably advanced the downfal of the revolting system of intramural burial. No one can realize, without a visit, the horrors of this den, over which, be it remembered, numbers of persons were congregated every week for divine service, while, at another time, the chapel was actually converted into a "ball-room!"

Door-springs, of new invention, have been patented by Mr. Cotterill, of Birmingham, the principle of which, according to an informant, consists simply of a spiral spring, inclosed in a cylinder acting on a piston-rod, to which the opening of the door gives the momentum, and it does double duty by the addition of a joint at the point where the spring is at its utmost depression, by means of which the backward action of the piston is checked, and the door kept open at pleasure.

The New Houses of Parliament.—On Thursday in last week, Sir R. H. Inglis brought forward his motion for the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the state of the works, &c., but withdrew it (after a debate), with the understanding that Lord Morpeth would advise her Majesty to issue a commission for the purpose.

Blind Builders in Wales.—The following is a list of the tenders given on the 28th of February, for building a national school at Abergavenny:—

Williams, Pontypool	£1,590	0	0
Danniel, Crickowell	1,350	0	0
James, Newport	1,325	0	0
Bowen, Pontypool	1,300	0	0
Evins, Abergavenny	1,220	10	0
Jones, Abergavenny	1,086	0	0
Garnstone	1,054	9	2
S. Jones, Abergavenny (accepted)	977	10	6

Construction of Sewers.—A manufacturer at Newcastle-on-Tyne, announces a new material for the construction of sewers. Six feet lengths of a sewer 3 feet 11 inches high, and 2 feet 6 inches wide, are put together in four pieces of this material, and if to be subjected to much hydraulic pressure, are secured by galvanised iron hooping.

TENDERS

For erecting the new British Lying in Hospital and a house adjoining, in Endell-street, Long-acre. Messrs. Fuller and Gingell, architects:—

T. Burtenshaw	£6,238
J. Thompson	6,066
Hrast and Moon	6,056
M. Patrick	5,985
R. Robinson	5,780
Cooper and Davis	5,740
W. Hill	5,670
W. Higgs	5,584
R. and R. Curtis	5,210
J. Glen (accepted)	5,168

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES

Held during the ensuing week.

Tuesday, March 14.—Institution of Civil Engineers, 8 P.M.

Wednesday, 15.—Society of Arts, 8 P.M.

Thursday, 16.—Royal Society, 8½ P.M.; Society of Antiquaries, 8 P.M.

Saturday, 18.—Institute of Fine Arts, 6 P.M.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Received.—"R. R.," "L. and N.," "J. R. H.," "E. J. W.," "J. J.," "Competitor," "W. H.," "T. L.," "Dr. McC. (next week)," "T. B.," "J. R.," "Six (?) Years' Subscriber" (we do not know), "Col. M.," "J. T.," "J. T. A.," "A Subscriber," "W. C.," "W. W. W." (we will visit the building), "Quarry" (we cannot conveniently reply), "E. L.," "R.," "F. J.," "A. B." Brighton (the register office is not available for the new invention named), "Architect's clerk," "Christo" (the request would doubtless be complied with), "E. C. X."

"*Books, Prices, and Addresses.*"—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

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GEORGE GODWIN, } Hon. Secs.
LEWIS POCOCK, }

4, Trafalgar-square, March, 1848.

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